

# ECHOMEDIA LONDON

• EKOMEDIA •  
alternative news-  
media...  
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OCT. 88.

YES! Ekomedia London is back. Hello all you out there. Send contributions (typ ex, glue, typists etc.) to: Ekomedia London, Box Ekomedia, 121 Railton Road, London SE 24. TA



## POLL TAX.....

The poll tax is to be introduced in Scotland next year and in England in 1990. Although this is some way off... resistance to it grows.

The poll tax is a local tax replacing the existing rates system. Unlike the rates system, poll tax is not based on the value of your property, (if you have any!), or on your ability to pay. Everyone over 18, (with a few exceptions), has to pay. Different boroughs will have different charges, based on local council spending. Councils in poorer inner-city areas spend more money so poorer areas will be paying higher taxes. e.g. a couple living in Lambeth, south London, will pay £490 EACH, whereas in Croydon a much richer part of London a yuppie living alone in a big house will be paying £190! Pensioners will not be exempt. People on the dole will have to pay 20% of the money from their giro's.

Anti-poll tax groups are springing up all over Britain. There's 23 groups in Edinburgh, Scotland, 11 in Glasgow and 20 or 30 in London. Resistance is at an early stage, but there's plenty of time yet! and it's encouraging to see so many groups forming already. No doubt when the time comes things will be more interesting... ..

The P&O strike in Dover which started in March is still going on. 700 workers are still out, they couldn't go back to work even if they wanted to because they've been sacked, about 200 people regularly turn up on the picket lines, but P&O's scab services are no longer badly affected and the workers at Dover have been left almost totally isolated.... @@@@

SEE LAST EKOMEDIA FOR DETAILS..

In September, in Exeter, about 500 people marched against the orange order march commemorating William Bastard of Orange's landing in Exeter. Both sides were kept apart by the cops. No trouble, no arrests....

## UPPER HEYFORD

On Sat. Oct. 15th, about 50 anarchists turned up at the CND demonstration at Upper Heyford, a US AF base.

The total number of demonstrators was only about 1000 spread round the perimeter of the base, so there were no big groups for us to hide in as we attacked the fence.

Our emphasis was on damage, so we moved about and attacked in turn the fence, a police helicopter, and a few buildings. By moving fast we avoided arrest. Although after an hour the police knew where we were, and began following us around. Hence time to go! Autonomous Peace Action.

WALES... a series of fire attacks on English estate agents selling Welsh holiday homes has been claimed by the Welsh nationalist group Sons of Glendower.....



## ANTI MCDONALDS DAY

The London Greenpeace picket against McDonalds on Sun. Oct. 16th was from 7pm till 9pm in the West End of London. About 30 people turned up, handed out leaflets, held banners, and blocked the entrance. This was part of the worldwide day of action against McDeath on that day. Many other pickets took place over this weekend in London and other towns - details next time.

In March of this year so-called 'left-wing' Hackney Council decided to close three libraries as part of its cuts policy. In response to this attack, the library workers and local people occupied the libraries and kept them open. There was massive popular support for this action, apart from, of course, the Labour bureaucrats who are only concerned with their careers. The bureaucrats hoped that the action would soon collapse, but it didn't thanks to the great work by many people. Yet the occupation failed to spread beyond the three libraries and talk was of a judicial review rather than pickets and strike. The far left only bothered to tell the occupiers what to do and never actually did any of the real work of occupation while the union bureaucracy did their utmost to keep the action isolated and limited. On Friday 9th September the bailiffs turned up with their friends the police. But hundreds of people had come and the bailiffs were forced away by sheer weight of numbers. A couple of weeks later they crept back at night and evicted the three libraries. At the end we were 'defeated', but in terms of lessons learnt and contacts made, it was a victory - we're getting ready for next time because these attacks on our living standards will certainly continue.



Sitting watching, placidly, the Six O' Clock News seemed as normal as ever. Then, suddenly voices definitely not belonging to that benign T.V. institute rose unquestionably above the presenters and there ensued such tumult as never seen before. What was that? Claws 28? Oh, dear, Herbert, are these animal lovers, murmured Grandma over tea. Ooops, these women shot into view and the (very) male presenter felt obliged to sit on the head of the offending "creature". Yes, we gasped, it was really happening, those wonderful dykes had gone from absailers to studio-breakers. The definite sound of a sharp snap and she had done it, handcuffed herself to a camera. I mean, murmured the floor manager, did they realise the expense of a camera?? Shouting out "Clause 28" is taking away lesbian and gay rights" (I stand corrected if that is wrong, but it was along those lines!). Ma, grandma muttered loudly into her tea, being was always a jolly affair before, I mean, cucumber sandwiches and tea! (For those of you to whom English is a second language, to our parents gay was an expression used to denote "a happy disposition", which is of course why we use it now!!) The presenter was meanwhile bravely reading on, with a slight aside as "to the confusion" in the studio. That's women for you! Eventually our heroines were led away and, surprise no charges were brought. A trifle embarrassing for that security conscious I.T.N. (A English T.V. station). I mean, if charges were brought they might % broadcast it in the news'.!

\* gay





# Paint and flying melons as poll tax debate ends in riot

AN INTENDED Oxford Union-style debate at Lambeth Town Hall ended with a politician sprayed with paint while melons and tomatoes were hurled across the chamber.

Amid screams of abuse and "come outside" threats, Lambeth Tory opposition Councillor Michael Keegan, 28, was covered in white paint after being attacked by a man from the audience wielding a spray can.

The attack happened after Mr Keegan, the council's opposition finance chairman, had spoken as an invited guest at a Labour Young Socialist debate to discuss the poll tax.

Ironically, in a room beneath the first-floor council chamber, Lambeth's police committee was meeting to talk about riots.

Present during the attack was Linda Douglas, who represents the Young Socialists on Labour's national executive. Afterwards Ms Douglas dissociated Labour from the attack.

Mr Keegan said today: "I

by Dick Murray

had a formal invitation to the debate organised by the Vauxhall Labour Party Young Socialists. Ms Douglas and I both gave our speeches, with she against the poll tax and me speaking in its favour.

"Then we had question time and the trouble started. Somebody from the audience made a cruel joke about Norman Tebbit's wife.

"A large chunk of the 60-strong audience dissolved into laughter and everyone started making speeches.

"Then a man wearing a 'No to poll tax' badge came up and sprayed me with paint. It covered me and my clothes and then some melons were hurled across the chamber along with some tomatoes.

"They crashed around the mayor's dais and made an awful mess."

Mr Keegan added: "Lambeth Tories went to the debate as proper guests to take part in a serious discussion."



MICHAEL KEEGAN  
Invited then sprayed



## ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT.....

News is scarce because of a media blackout on attacks, and the destruction of the ALF press office by police raids. Ronnie Lee, the first press officer is still in jail serving a 10 year sentence, for conspiracy charges. Robin Lane is now out.

Confirmation of the press blackout came recently from City Limits, (a more or less "respectable" London listings magazine), which wrote an article saying "After receiving a communique from the ALF saying smoke incendiaries had been set off in department stores in central London, City Limits checked it out. The security officer for one store said the police had requested them not to report such incidents to the media. The story put out was that the store's fur department was closed for refurbishment"!...

## CRIMINALISATION OF BLACK KIDS IN HACKNEY

For nearly two years the Hackney police have conducted a vicious war of harassment against Trevor Monerville, a local black 21 year old. He has been battered to near death (after that attack he required brain surgery) and has been arrested numerous times. When he has been actually charged, he has been found not guilty, despite all the police efforts to stitch him up. What the police hate about Monerville is that, not only is he black, but he is unwilling to be silent about police harassment. He is now suing the police on several charges, ranging from negligence to assault, and has been involved in campaigns for justice and against police brutality and racism.

# POSTIES BITTER

*A London postal worker writes:*

On 31st August the Union of Communication Workers called a one day national strike over management's refusal to negotiate over Difficult Recruitment Area Supplements (DRAS). DRAS means new recruits in the south east can get an extra payment which is not payable to PO workers elsewhere. 97.62% of workers struck, though as was expected this didn't get rid of DRAS.

Management's response was to stick the boot in; using casuals, changing duties, directing people to cross picket lines and suspending workers for refusing to handle blacked mail. This resulted in a series of fragmented local walk-outs turning into a national strike

Immediately the workers had walked out the Union was trying to get them back to work. In an attempt to control the strike they made it official. They then made a deal which won nothing and basically said the return to work should be negotiated at a local level, thus destroying the unity and dividing office from office.

The workers gradually drifted back, with several major areas returning after the return date laid down by the Union. Even before everyone was back at work sixteen offices in South Wales walked out over a local issue. The workers are still angry and another national Post Office strike is on the agenda.

*SOURCE: COUNTER INFO.*



## HOUSING

The housing crisis in Britain is still worsening as councils go along with cut-backs and are selling off properties to yuppies in the spirit of 'new realism' (£££). The government are now trying to introduce 'Housing Action Trusts' to run down council estates. A H.A.T. is a government appointed body that takes over an estate, do it up, double the rent, diminish tenants' rights and when they're finished sell the whole lot off to the highest bidder. Waves of evictions will be the result of this, as they 'clean up' problem estates by doubling the rents. Also this way they can increase government control in areas with 'left wing' local authorities. The resistance against H.A.T.s is growing; in Scotland tenants managed to force the government to abolish the H.A.T. on their estate. Tenants in the Loughborough estate, S London, are now getting ready to follow their example and have started a wide spread publicity campaign.



## NEWS FROM IRELAND.....

new moves have been made against the "men of violence" in Northern Ireland. Within a matter of days, laws have come in which ban broadcasting of Sinn Fein, the IRA & supporters, and or a little gesture to make it all seem "fair", the loyalist UDA, & UFF have been included as well. Of course there's no mention of other loyalist groups, as their violence is "legitimate". Sinn Fein is the main political party representing the fight against the British in Ireland, despite having about 0% of the vote interviews or reporting of Sinn Fein is now illegal. "The government has decided that the time has now come to deny this easy platform to those who use it to propagate terrorism". The Tory party is not included in this! 3000 dead Argentinians is legal isn't it! T.V. and newspapers can report that Sinn Fein or others say but aren't allowed to do direct interviews, in other words leaving the press open to pit any interpretation they like on what is being said....

In the same week, the right to silence when arrested has also been scrapped. In other words, thinking of the two laws together, your not allowed to say anything outside police stations but if you don't say anything when you're in one, this can be used as proof that you've done something! People arrested all now have to Prove they are innocent. What more can you say?????.....

*N.B. THE SAME LAW IS SOON TO BE INTRODUCED IN ENGLAND AS WELL..... NO RIGHT TO SILENCE...*

